



Cleveland Teachers Union

News & Notes

Compiled by Tracy Radich, 1st Vice President
Issue 19 – April 26, 2015

BOARD MEETING APRIL 28

The next Board of Education Business Meeting is on Tuesday, April 28 at 6:30 at James Ford Rhodes High School 5100 Biddulph Avenue, Cleveland 44114. Hope to see everyone in their CTU blue.

Wear blue to school on Tuesday. Talk to your colleagues to make plans for the Board Meeting. An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us.

STEP III- GRIEVANCE APPEAL TO THE CEO

We have over 145 Step III hearings that we are scheduling from now until the end of the school year. If you have requested a hearing you will receive an email invitation stating the date and time for the hearing. If you cannot attend please email as soon as possible so we can reschedule. If you receive notice of your STEP III appeal hearing and your grievance has been resolved outside the grievance process please email Mary Moore (mary.moore@clevelandmetroschools.org) and Jillian Ahrens (jillian.ahrens@clevelandmetroschools.org) and let us know that we no longer need to hold the Step III hearing. It is important that we know that your issue is resolved. We can then use that time slot for another member's appeal.

Hearings are held at CMSD Board Office 1111 Superior Ave. 18th Floor. You will park in the garage on East 12th street. There is a sign outside the garage identifying it as CMSD parking. Bring your parking ticket to the Welcome Center for validation. Your principal/supervisor will also receive notice of the hearing. Whomever covers your class should put in for coverage but you should not be docked any time for this.

MAY 2 JOB FAIR

The Job Fair that is scheduled for May 2, will be held at Lincoln West High School (3202 West 30th Street) from 8:30 – 3:00. Doors open at 8:00am. Meet & Greet will be from 8:30 – 10:00. This will be an opportunity to talk to school Personnel Selection Committees, learn more about the specific job, and sign up for an interview. More information for the Job Fair will be sent via email and posted on the CTU website.

CTU RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

For all CTU members that are retiring this year, Cassandra Carter is requesting your address so that you can be sent an invitation for the annual retirement celebration. All Chairs were emailed a form that can be filled out and submitted to Cassandra. The annual Retirement Celebration is held in September. Formal invitations will be sent out by August 15. Members must retire by Aug 1 to attend this year's luncheon.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Shari Obrenski is happy to announce that Summer School MOUs have been agreed upon. The time to apply for summer school is here. Job postings for Secondary Summer School, OGT BootCamp, ESL Enrichment, and Elementary Summer Reading Academy are posted and were sent via email on April 21. Please see the postings for more information and details regarding the programs and positions available.

CTU PETITION

Have you signed the CTU petition telling the Board of Education to honor their commitment to the teachers and paraprofessionals at Corrective Action Schools? If not, take a minute to sign on right now and then share with your friends and family.

<http://petitions.moveon.org/aft/sign/cmsd-board-members-stop?source=c.em&r>

Cleveland Schools CEO Eric Gordon is trying to back out of the promises he made to teachers, school support staff, and the community. Tell the Board of Education to honor the promises made in the Corrective Action Plans (CAP) and Investment School Commitment letters that teachers and paraprofessionals signed in 2013 and 2014.

When HB 525, The Cleveland Plan, was first presented it was little more than an attempt to cripple and destroy cripple the Cleveland Teachers Union (CTU). CTU leadership fought hard to get to the table to make collaborative changes to the bill. The CTU, along with CEO Gordon, Mayor Frank Jackson, the Board of Education, and the business community - came together and made a horrible bill into a bill that would preserve the Collective Bargaining Agreement and maintain educators' voices in improving Cleveland's schools. That collaboration led the first successful school levy campaign in Cleveland since 1996 and laid the

groundwork for a successful ratification of a new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

When the District and CTU ratified the contract in May 2013, CEO Gordon and CTU President Quolke wrote a joint statement that can be found in the front of the CBA. It states, "Our greatest success will not be found in the District's offices or the CTU's headquarters, but in the labor – management relationships in our schools and departments that turn the elements of this document into successes for students!"

It's time that we make CEO Gordon and the Board of Education live up to their promises. The newest Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) that were given to the teachers at the Corrective Action Schools (CAS) are not being used as a vehicle for student success. It is time that this top-down, heavy-handed approach to fixing Cleveland's schools stops.

Help us to Reclaim the Promise by signing your name! Click here to add your name:

<http://petitions.moveon.org/aft/sign/cmsd-board-members-stop?source=c.em&r>

HONORING VOLUNTEERS

When you are at the Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 28 - you will also have the opportunity applaud some of CMSD's awesome volunteers. The week of April 20th is Volunteer Appreciation Week and the district has invited many of their volunteers for recognition at the Board Meeting. This happened last year. There are many all-star volunteers that will be honored at this meeting.

STRESS RELIEF WORKSHOP

The Salary & Benefits Committee is hosting a Stress Relief Workshop on Thursday, April 30 at East Professional Center (1349 E. 79th Street). Vendors to shop from that are educator friendly, organizations to help with annuities and financial assistance, massages, and Mary Kay product demonstration. Space is limited. RSVP via email to Cindy Antonio (cantonio@ctu279.org).

CONDITIONS FOR TEACHING

The Conditions for Teaching Survey will open on Monday, April 13. All CTU members are invited to participate. This is a chance to give honest, productive feedback about your working and the student's learning conditions. You will receive an email via CMSD email with a link to the survey. All responses are confidential and the district and school leadership will NOT know if individual staff members completed the survey. Contact Jillian Ahrens for more information.

7th ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF OUTING

Cleveland Teachers Union and Cleveland Custodians Union are working together again to sponsor their 7th Annual Charity Golf Outing to benefit Tri-C Scholarship

Fund and the CCU Scholarship Fund. The outing will be on Saturday, May 16 (close to Tracy's birthday) at Bob-O-Link Golf Course. Information is being sent to buildings through school mail. Contact Wendi Kral (wkral@ctu279.org) for more information.

OPEN POSITION INTERVIEW PERIOD

Open Position Interview Period is underway to staff for the 2015-2016 school year. All teachers and paraprofessionals are eligible to interview for any open position. There is no Voluntary List. If a teacher or a paraprofessional chooses to interview for an open position(s) and is not selected or does not accept a new position – he/she simply remains in current assignment. Anyone who is identified as a Necessary Transfer and does not interview or is not selected will be assigned a school. All Necessary Transfers will still have a position. The Open Position Interview Period will run from April 9 – May 15. Interviews and selections can continue all throughout the OPI Period. All selections and acceptances from teachers and paraprofessionals will be due to HR by Friday, May 15 at 4:30pm.

Chairs and Principals must submit a signed form to HR indicating who they have selected for open position(s). Candidates must also email HR letting them know that they have accepted the position. No selection is complete until both the Selection Forms and Acceptance emails are submitted.

OHIO LEGISLATURE

Kurt Richards continues to monitor the action in the Statehouse regarding the budget and testing. The House has introduced several bills that would impact testing, while the Senate Panel on Testing continues to meet and work in Columbus. Shari Obrenski is one of the teacher representatives on this task force which will make recommendations to the Senate before summer recess. Just to give you an idea of what is happening here is an excerpt from an article that appeared in Gongwer. Gongwer is an official publication that reports on legislation and actions in the Ohio Legislature.

GONGWER: The House Education Committee on Tuesday advanced a wide-ranging K-12 testing measure that seeks to replace controversial assessments associated with the Common Core. The legislation (HB 74) is part of the ongoing efforts in the General Assembly to reduce testing time and provide more flexibility in regard to what are often referred to as "high stakes" assessments that are meant to gauge student, teacher and school performance. A recently amended version of the bill takes a strike particularly against Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College Career exams, which have been heavily criticized by school administrators and teachers, as well as parents, who are opting their students out of the end-

of-year assessments. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 11, 2015) In addition to permitting the state to select new assessments for use in the 2015-16 school year, bill sponsor Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) has proposed banning PARCC and Smarter Balance from responding to Department of Education requests-for-proposals for state testing contracts. The RFP ban is accomplished in amendment language prohibiting contract participation by any group that received funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the sponsor told the House panel. Members on Tuesday also heard a more cut-and-dried approach to dealing with the PARCC backlash. Rep. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield) provided details on a measure (HB 138) he's sponsoring with Rep. Paul Zeltwanger (R-Mason) that would require ODE to request a federal waiver to discontinue the tests. If ODE elects to continue using PARCC, then schools would be required to administer only the performance-based portion and the end-of-year portion would be optional under the measure, he said. Results from EOY exams could not be used for calculating state report card ratings, evaluating teachers and administrators, retaining third-grade students or determining eligibility of high school graduation. The measure, which includes an emergency clause, doesn't outline any options for alternative testing because it's focus is to simply "put out the fire" of PARCC testing as soon as possible, Rep. Koehler said. "Our students are being under-educated and over-tested. We need to get schools back to teaching and students back to learning," he said. "We need to put a pause on PARCC for this school year, and come up with a better solution for our students and teachers." Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) and Rep. Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) agreed that extensive testing is an issue, but raised concerns about the bill's lack of details on how to move forward with fixing the problem. "Do you think we should have a plan in mind at the very least?" Rep. Ramos asked, further questioning the likelihood of the federal government approving a waiver. The sponsor said he's unsure whether a waiver will be approved, but it's important either way for the testing to come to an end. Rep. Patterson said he's worried the state will lose out on "hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funding" if the waiver isn't approved and the state abandons the investment it's already made in PARCC. Time and money that have already been spent on the tests don't justify continuing to use them, Rep. Koehler said. "At some point we've got to say, 'We've made a mistake here,'" he said of the English and math tests that are tied to Common Core standards. "The teachers, the schools, the administrators are trying to tell us this was a mistake. This is not what we wanted."

great impact on states and the tests that students are forced to take. Keep your eye on the Statehouse and Congress. The CTU bill to Put a Pause on PARCC is not dead. Legislators are still anxious to introduce the bill. Kurt, Tracy, and David remain in contact with legislators.

As you can see, what happens with the reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has